

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
PATENT OPERATIONS**

Art Unit: 1742 (Examiner: McNelis, Kathleen A)  
Applicants: STEPHEN M. POTTER  
PEDRO GUTEMBERG QUARIGUASI NETTO  
Serial No: 10/789,694  
Filed: February 27, 2004  
Title: COMBINED PRE-TREATMENT PROCESS FOR ENABLING FEED MATERIAL  
TO BE CHARGED IN DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS

Charlotte, North Carolina  
August 23, 2006

Honorable Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed August 9, 2006 and the Interview Summary faxed August 16, 2006 Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

**Amendment of the Claims** begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 5